

HOWNICKAN

PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

Vol. 21, No. 3

Citizen Potawatomi Nation

March 1999

Tribal members hurt by BIA money handling

By Michael Dodson

By some estimates, at least 800 Citizen Potawatomi families have been hurt by mismanagement of Individual Indian Money (IIM) accounts by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Dramatic developments in a federal court in Washington, D.C. have turned the bright spotlight of national publicity on this decades-old situation.

A General Accounting Office investigation in the mid-1990's places unaccounted-for funds at approximately \$2.4 billion in 300,000 to 500,000 IIM accounts. Some Indian leaders say the amount could be as much as \$10 billion.

In late February, Judge Royce C. Lamberth of the Washington, D.C. federal district court held Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Treasury Secretary Robert E.



Mary Fish Is Interviewed By NBC Reporter Roger O'Neil

Rubin, and BIA Director Kevin Gover in civil contempt of court. They have been unable to

produce documents in a class-action suit brought by Native Americans whose oil lease and

other income has been mismanaged by the Interior Department.

Hundreds of thousands of records, which track the flow of income into and out of these IIM accounts, are missing. These records have been lost in fires, washed away in floods, buried in salt mines, crumbled in warehouses, or are covered with rat droppings, according to trust managers.

Plaintiffs need these records to establish the level of damage inflicted by the Interior Department mismanagement and to demonstrate to the court that it has occurred, and how and why it did.

In early March, under the headline "Poor Indians Who Own Rich Lands Try to Break out of Vast Federal Maze", *New York Times* reporter Timothy Egan wrote an excellent primer on the Interior Department's trust management

Continued on page 12

Nation's business on display at Capitol

By Michael Dodson

Early March brought an opportunity for Native American-owned businesses to show their wares at the Oklahoma Capitol. No tribe was better represented than the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, as the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission hosted American Indian Business Day.

Booths lined both sides of the Capitol's Fourth Floor Rotunda. They displayed a wide range of goods and services that are the

products of Native American ingenuity, talent, and hard work.

The Potawatomi Nation's booth featured items representing its owned-and-operated enterprises. "This was a great opportunity for the Nation to show Oklahoma decision-makers the quality and broad range of services available from Potawatomi-owned businesses," said John "Rocky" Barrett, tribal chairman.

A few feet away, Jane Lauderdale, marketing director, stood

watch over a booth with information about the nation's bank, First National Bank and Trust Co.

A leisurely stroll around the rotunda took visitors to the booth set up by ALKO Enterprises, owned by Gene Bruno, Potawatomi Nation Secretary-Treasurer. ALKO had a coveted spot, looked over by Charles Banks Wilson's stunning mural of legendary Potawatomi athlete Jim Thorpe. ALKO is a

Continued on page 10



Vice Chairman Linda Capps, State Sen. Brad Henry, Chairman John A. Barrett At State Capitol

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TRIBAL TRACTS

Tribal member travels to Africa for archaeological congress

Tribal member Ben Rhodd, the son of Ben G. Rhodd of Tecumseh, has just returned from a two-week trip to Capetown, South Africa.

Rhodd is a member of the Executive Council of the World Archaeological Congress (WAC). His position is two fold with the Congress; he serves as an indigenous representative from the different nations around the globe, working on issues affecting heritage management.

These issues include differing opinions concerning archaeological resources, including but not limited to sacred sites, repatriation, and cultural patrimony topics. These issues affect the heritage reclamation efforts of indigenous nations and their efforts at defining their past.

WAC was born within the tumultuous issue of apartheid in South Africa in 1985. The Congress was taken to task by several world class scientific societies including the Royal Academy of Science in London. WAC took issue with the scientific communities' lack of concern for present day political policies toward indigenous nations' and held the first Congress that excluded South African academic presenters. The Congress was a huge success and this action led to numerous other scientific organizations, both physical and social, following suit.

The academic community of South Africa then pressured its government to

begin the process of change in its apartheid policy. WAC maintains this stance towards any governmental agency or government that denies the indigenous nations within its borders the right to self-determination and access to its material culture.

The organization is still in a contentious position with several other world governments and scientific societies that feel that science should not be concerned with the present political processes. However, WAC is a strong viable scientific establishment that will continue to advocate for indigenous people's right to their past and present.

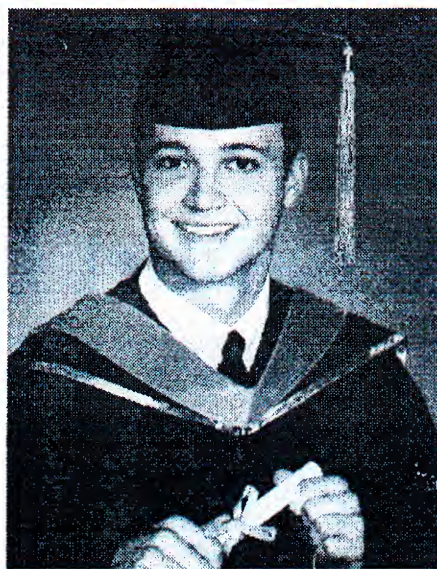
Pinkston attends conference

Money Concepts International, Inc. personnel from across the United States gathered in Jupiter, Florida recently for the international financial planning network's annual planning conference.

Karen Pinkston, who manages the Money Concepts Financial Planning Centre at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's First National Bank and Trust Co. of Shawnee, attended.

"This important annual planning event was attended by Money Concepts International Advisory board Members, financial planning centre owners, and the network's associates from all over the United States," Pinkston said. "There were also representatives there from England, the Republic of Ireland, and Puerto Rico."

From Our Mailbox



I wanted to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for all the assistance that the Potawatomi tribe provided to me during my collegiate career. Without your support it would have made it extremely difficult to obtain my bachelor's degree. I received my degree from the University of Oklahoma in December 1998 and am now pursuing a career in marketing. I'm proud to be a part of the great Potawatomi Nation and will continue to strive to further the visions and goals of the tribe in order to help preserve my rich Native American Heritage.

Sincerely,

Bradley Peltier

More scholarship recipients listed

The following Tribal members received the Potawatomi Tribal Scholarship for the spring semester of 1999:

Diana J. Brasfield, Tri-County Technology Center
Joanna Howard, University of Oklahoma
Jay A. Laughlin, Oklahoma City Community College
Sydney R. Flowers, Sterling College
Brandon J. Rennie, Fort Lewis College
Shayla D. Impson, Weatherford College
Cynthia R. Holik, Rose State College
LaShawna D. Kempel, Wichita State University
Charles D. Dunigan, University of Oklahoma
Brian K. Walker, Southwest Texas State University
David K. Sivadon, Oklahoma Baptist University
Kenneth E. Bruce, Ozarks Technical College
Connie L. Kay, Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College
Jami L. Kay, Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College

HOW-NI-KAN PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

The HowNiKan is published by the Business Committee of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation with offices at 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801.

The HowNiKan is mailed free to enrolled tribal members. Subscriptions to non-members are available for \$10 annually in the United States and \$12 for foreign countries.

The HowNiKan is a member of the Native American Journalists Association. Reprint permission is granted with publication credit to the HowNiKan and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

All letters and submissions become the property of the HowNiKan. Editorials and letters are subject to editing and must contain a traceable address. Final selection of material for publication is subject to approval by the Business Committee.

All correspondence should be directed to HowNiKan, 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Ok. 74801. Address changes should be sent to Potawatomi Tribal Rolls, 1601 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Business Committee
Chairman - John A. "Rocky" Barrett Jr.
Vice Chairman - Linda Capps
Sec./Treasurer - Gene Bruno
Committeeman - Hilton Melot
Committeeman - Jerry P. Motley

Toll-Free Number: 1-800-880-9880

<http://www.potawatomi.org>

The annual tribal referendum and election will be held on June 26, 1999. Voting will be at the tribal complex the day of the election from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Requests to vote an absentee ballot must be made by June 6, 1999. Requests for absentee ballots must be in writing and include the correct mailing address, roll number and legal signature of the person making the request. A referendum budget to determine expenditures of accumulated interest from set-aside funds, as well as the election of tribal officials, will be on the ballot. Requests for tribal election ballots should be mailed to: Potawatomi Election Committee, P.O. Box 310, Tecumseh, OK 74873.

HowNiKan DEADLINES & ADVERTISING RATES

The deadline for political advertising in The HowNiKan is the 5th of the month. Rates for political ads are listed below. Each candidate was offered a free quarter-page ad in the April issue as provided for in the tribal election ordinance. All other political ads must be paid for by the person or persons placing the ad. Payment must be made to the tribal Director of Accounting before the ad can be printed. The editor of The HowNiKan, under the election ordinance, shall have final approval on contents of free and paid advertisements and shall review the contents for libel, slander and inaccuracy of facts with the tribal attorney.

Advertising Rates:

Full Page - \$100

Half Page - \$50

Quarter Page - \$25

Deadline: 5th of the month for that month's issue



BUSINESS COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 23, 1998

Present: Chairman John A. Barrett, Jr., Vice-Chairman Linda Capps, Secretary/Treasurer Gene Bruno, Committeeman Hilton Melot, Committeeman Jerry P. Motley, Deputy Administrator Bob Trousdale, Director of Health Services Joyce Abel, Self-Governance Specialist, Tribal Archaeologist, NAGPRA Program Director Lisa Kraft, Environmental Health Director, Tribal Archaeologist, K.C. Kraft, Tribal members Ruby Withrow, Mildred Flynn and Jo Nell Negahnquet, Director of Administrative Services Vicki Canfield.

Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Gene Bruno moved to approve the minutes of August 12, 1998; Linda Capps seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Linda Capps moved to amend the agenda to place Ruby Withrow on the agenda ahead of the enrollment items;

Hilton Melot seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed. Gene Bruno moved to table the request until they get the name of the organization and the details of the representation requested by this particular board; John Barrett seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Linda Capps moved to approve Resolution #99-19 approving the relinquishment of Thomas J. Rodriguez in order for Mr. Rodriguez to enroll with the Prairie Band Potawatomi; Jerry Motley seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Hilton Melot moved to approve Resolution #99-20 enrolling 17 applicants eligible under previous guidelines; Jerry Motley seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Gene Bruno moved to approve Resolution #99-21 enrolling 24 descendant applicants; Linda Capps seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

John Barrett moved to approve Resolution #99-22 enrolling 24 descendant applicants; Linda Capps seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Jerry Motley moved to approve Resolution #99-23 enrolling 29 descendant applicants; Gene Bruno seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Linda Capps moved to approve Resolution #99-24 enrolling 28 descendant applicants; Hilton Melot seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Hilton Melot moved to approve Resolution #99-25 enrolling 28 descendant applicants; John Barrett seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Gene Bruno moved to approve Resolution #99-26 enrolling 24 descendant applicants; Hilton Melot seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

John Barrett moved to appropriate \$2,000.00 to the National Native Ameri-

can Memorial War Complex; seconded by Jerry Motley. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed. The central element of the complex will be a sculptor honoring fallen warriors and a wall listing by tribes all veterans who died in wars. The sculptor will be done by Denny Haskew, A Citizen Potawatomi and Vietnam Era Veteran.

Business Committee recessed at 6:40 p.m.

Business Committee reconvened at 6:52 p.m.

John Barrett moved to approve a Potawatomi named race at Fair Meadows Race Track for the next meet at \$5,000.00, funds to come from race track hold from Fair Meadows; Hilton Melot seconded. Passed 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

There being no further business before the Business Committee, Hilton Melot moved to adjourn; Jerry Motley seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.



WELCOME, NEW CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION ENROLLEES!

The following members were enrolled under previous guidelines:

William Clyde Denson
Ila Dortha Wilkoski Hicks
Winifred Rose Cryer Corallo
Claudia Jo Denson
Margaret Elaine Guess Oswald
Barbara Anne Peeke Teller
Brandon Tyler Huggins
Jay E. York
Lucy Saladin Smith
Barry Wynn Teller
Joyce Barbara Wistos Hatch
Johnnie Faye Tarkington Gigler

The following members were enrolled under the descendancy guidelines:

Parissa Elaine LeClair Shareghi
Allie Elizabeth LeClair Shareghi
Lauren Kelly Lester
Deanna Jean Hubble
Brandy Jean Bibb
Taylar Rae Ann Fullbright
Matthew Miguel Blankenship
Angela Colleen Seits
Allison Marie Jinks
Chad Duane Hatch
Tina Dawn Wolf
Lori Beth Bridges
McKenzie Dale Crawford
Zachary Scott Edwards-Conger
Patrick Miller Hernandez
Robert Earl Spalding, Jr.
Nicholas Joseph Spalding
Jacob Robert Spalding
Evan Patrick Spalding
William Michael Mndokima

McCurley

Alexis Leanne Nichole Winsor
Dezerin Marie Rumley
Amber Dawn Gigler
Justin Ray Gigler
Trisha Gayle Giboney
Logan Michael Hubble
John Harrison Garver
Talea Lanett Yowell
Anisha LeAnn Paxson
Alex Melot Sigman
Andrew Travis Dupree
Summer Michelle King Johnston
Aahnix Alexander Bathurst Williams

Jay Christopher Lewis
Edmundo Guerro-Toral, Jr.
Julie Jan Lawson
Hannah Lee Steinmetz
Lee Ann Meneley
James Joseph Lipinski III
Amanda Jay Stramski
Jarrett Carson Stramski
Maria Katherine Shaw
Robert Craig Morrison
James Donald Morrison
Joanne Kelly Carando
Kristina Angelina Ierace
Trenton Wayne Dill
Neal Scott Forbis
Natasha Brooke Widmer
Morgan Elizabeth Widmer
Gabriel Franklin Widmer
Edgar Robert "Menawit" Hammons II
Buffy Jean Bowman
Gilligan Otto Bowman
April Emma-Jo Bowman

Gabriel Elias Bowman
Johnathon Dillon Christian
Kathryn Jade Moss
Makalieghe Paige Moss
Mark Aaron Edward Gorman
Aric Benjamin Gorman
Monica Theresa Bumpass
William Tyrel McBride
John Dirk McBride
Trevor Bowen McBride
Jordan Scott Clay
Leandra Camille Aragon
Alex Cody Aragon
Rusty Wayne Martin

Samuel Ryan Huff
Maria Denise Antonello Puck
Samuel James Leaf
Gregory Ali Fletcher
Kathryn Kay Marie Rowton
Emma Sophia Drejes
Glenna Raylynn Bonner
Bridget Nicole Dettelsen
Blair Danielle Johnson
Colson West-Lee Shaw
Ari Enayat LeClair Shareghi
Adam Edward LeClair Shareghi
Kacie Lynnette Greetham

Demerise Joam Lally Castillo
Raymond Delbert Burleson, Jr.
Kevin Ray Burleson
Shelby Rene Burleson
Sara Michelle Davis
Cory William Davis
Lynn Renee Stephens
Christopher Alan Martin
Mary Jean Martin
James Carlton Jackson
Deborah Diane Jackson
David Michael Jackson
Jacob Christopher Taylor

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION REQUEST FOR BALLOT • 1999 ELECTION

To comply with the 1999 Citizen Potawatomi Nation Election Ordinance, please complete this form and return to: Potawatomi Election Committee, P.O. Box 310, Tecumseh, OK 74873

NAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP: _____

Under penalty of perjury, I hereby declare this to be my legal signature and Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Roll Number:

SIGNATURE: _____ TRIBAL ROLL #: _____

THIS FORM MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JUNE 6, 1999

LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Ahau Nikanyek,

First, I thank Jack Wooldridge for his candid letter to the editor in the last issue of the *HowNiKan* (Hau Nikanyek), asking, "Where are those language tapes?"

I called Jack to discuss the tapes, or the lack of them. We talked about what might be done for beginners who need help getting started with the vowels, alphabet, etc. and about having something to train our hearing abilities in order to learn.

Listening is a problem. We do need the tapes to listen to and Jack was interested in our having tapes, even though I know he and I are very grateful for all the other good materials out there on the Internet from other Potawatomi people throughout the country.

Why? Because we do need them! We do not have many speakers and our nation has one very dedicated Citizen Potawatomi speaker, Mr. Walter Cooper. However Walter and other dedicated Potawatomi people, our relations, can only be spread so thin. They are our elders. I will be committing all *HowNiKan* language articles to audio tape and reproducing them in the near future.

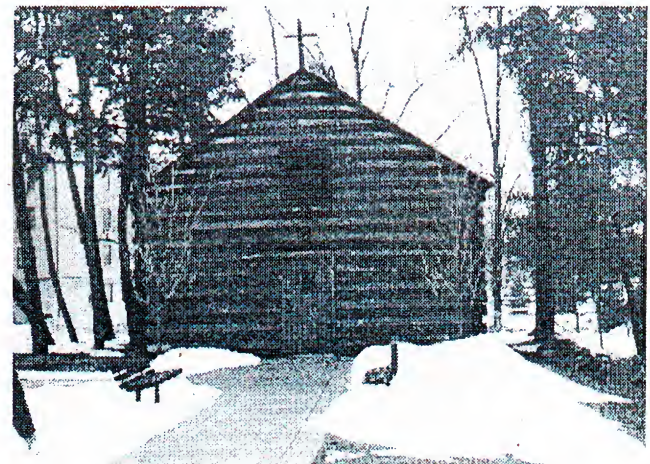
In any case, my aim will be to make these affordable for those of us who are committed to not only learning the Potawatomi language but also to bringing this language back to our people. This is our opportunity, our generation's chance, to not only learn the language and use it but, also, to rebuild strongholds of language again.

Our motivation should be a re-gathering of the culture, keeping it alive and vital. In so doing, it will help preserve a future for many. In order to speak, you must begin language study groups and help each other. Walter and I will be working toward taping language for you to listen to and learn from.

Remember one thing in answering this question to yourself. Those of us who have folders of language, and deep piles of words and phrases, I ask you, "Can you talk to another Potawatomi?" It is hard to reach way



(Above) Pokagon elders and their families gathered in Dowagiac, Michigan recently for discussion of Potawatomi language and culture. Norm Kiker, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Language and Culture Director, attended the gathering. (Below left) Norm Kiker helps erect tents for the recent Citizen Potawatomi Winter Ceremonies and Feast. (Below right) Norm Kiker stopped in South Bend, Indiana to snap this photo of Father Petit's church on the Notre Dame University campus.



down for those words when you haven't grown up with people who speak the language.

Are you willing to learn the first few pages? It is not an overnight process. It took our relations years of growing up and hearing the spoken language and seeing it in action.

Tapes are an important tool. We all need them if we are going to learn and we are children no matter the age at which we begin. If you are 65 now, you start and

commit as a child. Look to your children, your grandchildren; you can help them learn.

In answer to Jack and others, we will have tapes. Here is an address for Jim Thunder, a fluent speaker who has tapes and books: Jim Thunder, 5032 Creek Haven Road, Cottage Grove, WI 53527, telephone 608-837-3789. Mr. Thunder has Book one through three and a tape and book, a medicine book.

— Norman Kiker

Spring Ceremonies April 29, 30 & May 1, 2

Spring Ceremonies begin at sunrise the morning of April 29, north of the Potawatomi powwow grounds.

Ceremonies - April 29th

Sunrise - Noon - Sunset

Ceremonies - April 30th

Sunrise - Noon - Sunset

Ceremonies - May 1st

Sunrise - Noon - Sunset

Ceremonies - May 2nd

Sunrise - Noon - Ending feast

Please contact Norman Kiker or Misty Kieffer at 405-273-3216 if you have any questions. If the ladies have any questions, they should contact Esther Lowden at 405-275-3119, or 800-880-9880 for those out of state.

Afternoon sessions are set aside for language and cultural teaching in relation to the seasonal feasts, etc. This is an encampment. If you are camping out, dress warmly. If the weather is anything like last year's, you may need to.

Each time we have a gathering, it is a time of bringing together the entire family — parents, children, grandchildren, and grandparents. This is important if you want to learn and pass the good things on to future generations.

RV campers: Please contact Mary Farrell at 405-275-3121 or 800-880-9880. See you there!

Grand Prize Art Competition 1998-1999

*Grand Prize Art Competition
Prizes are as follows:*

*\$300 First Prize
\$200 Second Prize*



**** Only winners of the Multi-Regional Art Competitions are eligible to enter the Grand Prize Art Competition.**

- Entries must have been completed within two years of the Grand Prize Art Competition and must be the work of the artist, without assistance.
- Artwork must reach the Tribal Headquarters in Shawnee, no later than Wednesday, June 2, 1999, to be eligible for the Grand Prize Art Competition.
- A \$5 entry fee must accompany each entry.
- Entries will be judged on the basis of 35mm slides in standard mounts (no glass mounts will be accepted). The slides should be labeled with the artists name, title of work, date of completion, media and dimensions (HxWxD). Please indicate "top front" on the slide mount. If you wish to have the slide returned, the slide must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. Do not send the actual piece of artwork.
- Only one prize will be paid to each contestant. A contestant that wins more than one prize will be awarded the higher of the prizes.
- Artists will be notified by mail as soon as the competition judging is completed.
- The first place winner of the Grand Prize Art Competition will be brought to Shawnee for the 1999

Media Include:

- painting
- sculpture
- prints
- pottery
- fabric art
- photography
- beadwork
- jewelry
- miscellaneous



For more information contact:
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
Art Competition
1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, OK 74801
ATTN: Norman Kiker

The Legacy of Bruno Creek

By Johnny Flynn, Potawatomi
Reprinted with permission from the
Oklahoma Indian Times, January 1999

When oil production came to Potawatomi Indian lands in Oklahoma in the late 1920's oil boom, Mose Bruno's eight acres of allotted land was sitting close to a known oil field. It took a while to negotiate the deals through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. But, sale and lease agreements were put in front of Mose to sign, although he could not read or write.

Bruno put his mark on the papers and, when drillers struck oil, the iron grasshoppers were set to work, bleeding more oil from Indian lands in Oklahoma.

If you are an Indian from Oklahoma, you know this story. Like me, you heard it from your grandmas and grandpas and, even if you heard the story a thousand times, you still shake your head and wonder how this thing could happen. It is a story of greed, deception, theft, and outright criminal behavior on the part of government officials who were bound by law to protect Indian rights and lands.

In far southeast Pottawatomie County, there is a small creek named after the Potawatomi Indians who received allotments along its banks. It is called Bruno Creek. The Brunos whose allotments bordered this creek were children when the federal government allotted these lands and my great-grandpa, Mose Bruno, received his eighty acres.

What most people do not know about the period of land allotments in Oklahoma is that Indians were usually allotted the lands on which they were already living, under treaty provisions. Mose Bruno's father, John Baptiste Bruno, and his mother, Mary Rhodd Bruno, had been living near Bruno Creek since the late 1860s.

Because Mose Bruno was a "restricted Indian," he could not sell the land, build a house on it, or, even, dig a ditch without local Indian agency approval. When Mose married Frances Shopwetuck in 1901, they settled on his eighty acres on Bruno Creek because it was bottomland fertile enough to support a family. But, that was all to change when the

In the early years of this century, oil was discovered on the adjacent Seminole reservation. It was not long before the oilmen were sniffing around Mose Bruno's place. Eventually, seven wells were drilled on the eighty acres. It is in those actions that this story descends into the nightmare of Oklahoma Indian land tenure. Remember that Mose Bruno was a restricted Indian; everything that happened to him, his family, and his lands had to have approval of the federal government in the person of the local Indian agent.

The first oil and gas lease on Mose Bruno's place was signed in July 1923. However, until 1939, no wells were drilled. That first well was not drilled until after Mose Bruno had sold the mineral rights for his eighty acres.

The strategy of some producers was to get the Indian allottees to sell their mineral rights or take their land out of trust. Then, and only then, would the producers drill the wells.

In 1926, Mose Bruno tried to take his eighty acres out of trust. But the Citizen Potawatomi Business Committee blocked that move. Mose's application for a patent in fee was denied. The application indicated that Mose Bruno "has not the necessary business qualifications to handle this land with profit to himself."

The rejection of the patent request was signed by the entire Citizen Potawatomi Business Committee and by the Shawnee Indian Agency Superintendent, A.W. Leech (an unfortunate but somehow appropriate name for the person in charge of protection of Indian land and mineral rights).

In October 1928, the mineral royalties on Mose Bruno's land were assessed at a value of \$400 per acre. In July 1929, the mineral rights on twenty acres were sold at auction for \$1300, less than one-sixth (16.7%) of their assessed value. At least one well was drilled on that twenty acres. It is still pumping to this day. Neither Mose Bruno nor his heirs has ever received a cent from the production from that well.

Note: The legal status of "restricted" Indians, such as Mose Bruno, is complicated. Under BIA regulations, Mose Bruno should have first been declared, by the courts, to be "legally competent" to handle his own affairs. Only then could he be issued a patent in fee simple for his total allotment. At that point, Bruno could have sold all or part of his allotment, or the mineral rights, as he wished, without BIA supervision.

On the first twenty acres, the patent in fee simple was issued in 1929 to Charles E. Wells, a Shawnee attorney, without the certificate of competency. The Bruno family contends that this was an illegal transaction, as, they claim, were all succeeding land and mineral rights sales of Mr. Bruno's holdings.

We contend that the BIA did not follow the law, or its own regulations, in allowing land and lease sales to take place. In our research, we found many cases in which the BIA did the same thing to other Potawatomi families.

— Johnny Flynn

POTAWATOMI SCRAPBOOK



Mose And Frances Bruno (About 1959)



Seated: Mose And Frances Bruno. Standing, From Left, Three Of Their Children, Bob, Jonnie And Beatrice Bruno. Photo Taken About 1957

In 1931, Mose Bruno took another twenty acres out of trust and sold the mineral rights a fraction at a time in order to survive the Depression that gripped the country in the 1930's.

What is nearly unbelievable about this history is that none of this—not land sales, not oil well drilling, not lease sales—could have taken place without the approval of the local Indian agent and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Northern California Regional Meeting



Left: The traveling tribal store was, as usual, a big hit with the Citizen Potawatomi who attended the regional meeting.

Right: Nicole Hofmeister was delighted to earn honors as the youngest enrolled tribal member at the regional meeting.

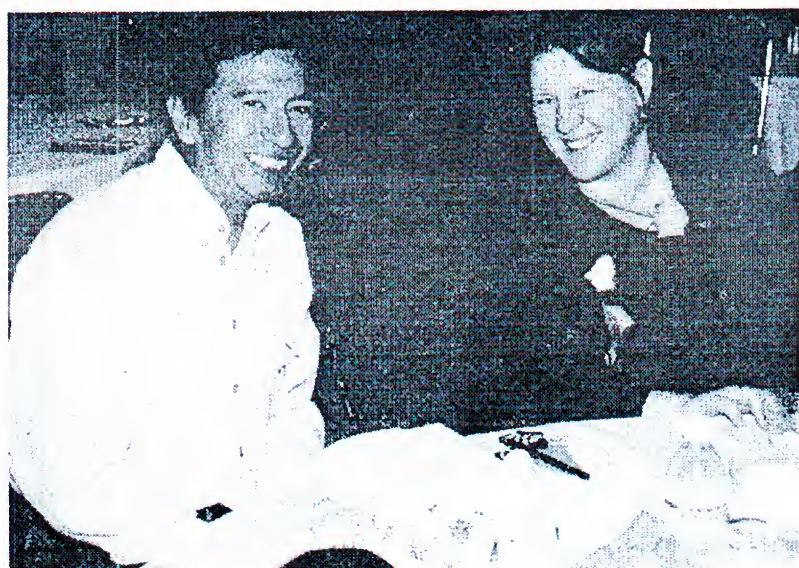
Below: Jack Wooldridge, Citizen Potawatomi artist/fabulist, recounted one of his fables and gave away copies of his books.



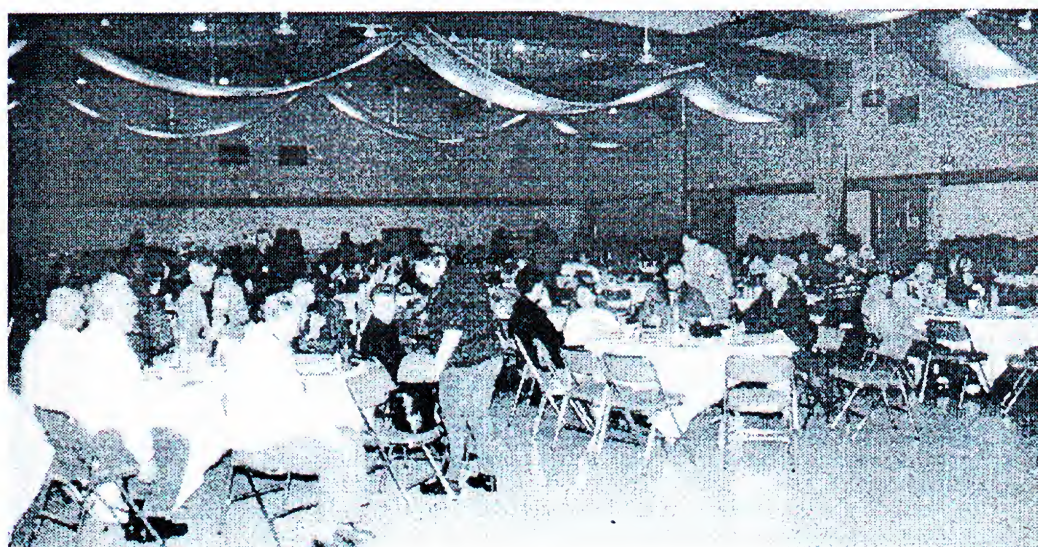
The Business Committee honored Northern California Regional Representative Jennifer Porter for hard work that goes into putting a regional meeting together.



Right: Jaime Kennedy, with son Ryan, took top honors in the Regional Art Contest and as the Potawatomi who drove the farthest to attend the meeting.



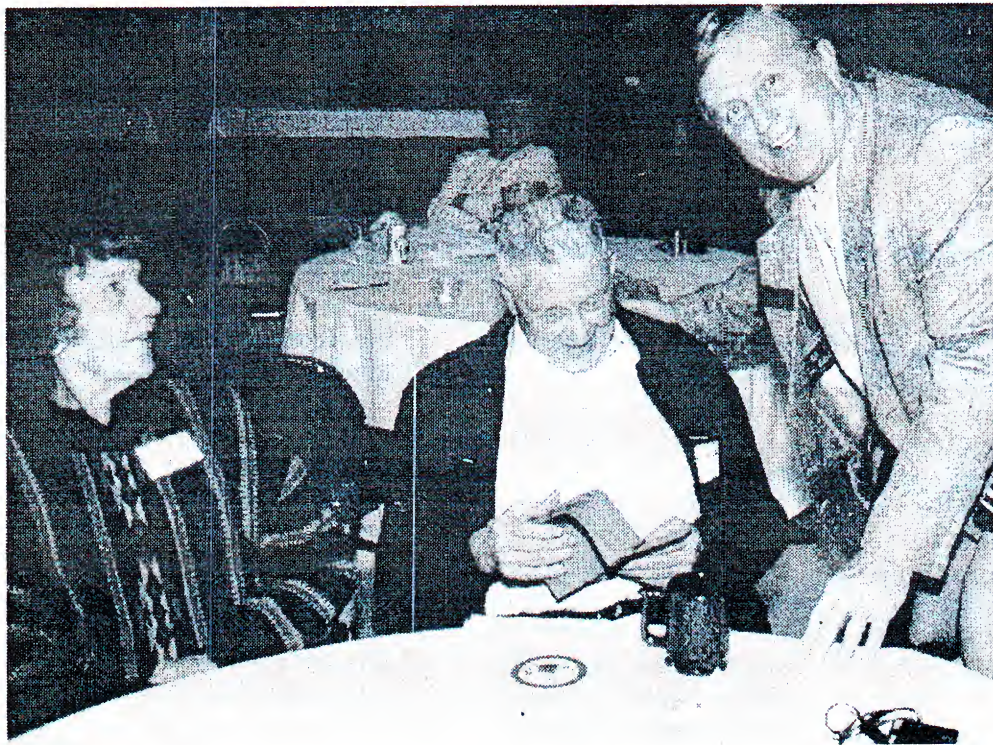
Walter Ogi Johnson, a Forest County Potawatomi flutemaker/flautist, and his wife Laura enjoyed the tremendous Citizen Potawatomi hospitality.



There was a good turnout of Citizen Potawatomi to enjoy fellowship and fine food and learn more about the Nation's business.

Regional Council

*Aahmes Event
Center
Livermore, CA*



Business Committee member Hilton Melot honored the Wisest Potawatomi, Roy Melot. That's His Wife Ramona To His Left.



Flautist Walter Ogi Johnson opened the meeting with a very enjoyable musical interlude.



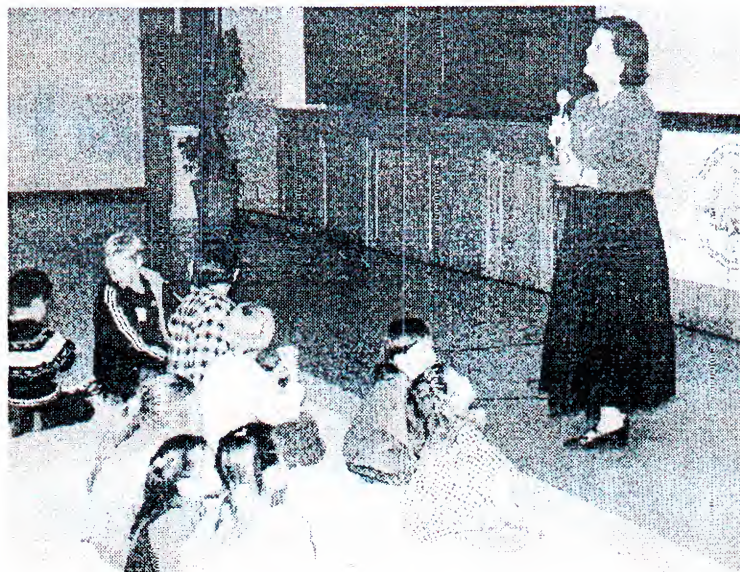
Zachary Porter and Ryan Potter made good use of the materials available for children's arts and craftmaking.



Ryan Kennedy pulls a name from the container, helping Jennifer Porter distribute door prizes.



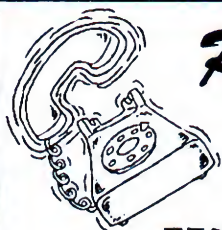
Alatra Johnson displays an item she made



Left: Barbara Potter, a master storyteller, has the youngsters hanging on her every word.

Right: Zachary Potter and Ryan Kennedy are busy creating as some of the crafts the children had already made hang in the background.





Regional Office Directory

REGION 1 - OREGON/IDAHO

REGION 2 - WASHINGTON

(INCLUDES ALASKA & HAWAII)

Roscoe "Rocky" Baptiste

Box 346, 525 Ivy Ave., Gervais, OR 97026
Local (503) 792-3744 • FAX (503) 792-3744
Toll-Free (800) 522-3744
e-mail: Region01@Potawatomi.org

REGION 3 - NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jennifer J. Porter

5033 Vannoy Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546
Local (510) 886-4195 • Toll-Free (800) 874-8585
e-mail: Region03@Potawatomi.org

REGION 4 - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jeremy Bertrand Finch

203 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, CA 91105
Local (626) 403-0930 • FAX (800) 432-2008
e-mail: Region04@Potawatomi.org

REGION 5 - SOUTHWEST

(INCLUDES ARIZONA & WESTERN NEW MEXICO)

Philonise Williams

20415 N. 29th St., Phoenix, AZ 85024
Local (602) 569-3073 • FAX (602) 569-6935
Toll-Free (800) 452-8966
e-mail: Region05@Potawatomi.org

REGION 6 - COLORADO

(INCLUDES MONTANA, UTAH, WYOMING,
WESTERN NEBRASKA, WESTERN KANSAS)

Penny Bishop

90 Meade Lane, Englewood, CO 80110
Local (303) 761-7021 • FAX (303) 761-1660
Toll-Free (800) 531-1140
e-mail: Region06@Potawatomi.org

REGION 7 - NORTHERN TEXAS

(INCLUDES EASTERN NEW MEXICO)

Marjorie Hobdy

3132 Kathy Lane, Irving, TX 75060
Local (972) 790-3075 • Toll-Free (800) 742-3075
e-mail: Region07@Potawatomi.org

REGION 8 - SOUTHERN TEXAS

Lu Ellis

26231 Huffsmith-Conroe Rd., Magnolia, TX 77355
Local (281) 356-7957 • Toll-Free (800) 272-7957
e-mail: Region08@Potawatomi.org

REGION 9 - MIDWEST

(INCLUDES EASTERN NEBRASKA & EASTERN KANSAS)

Maryann Bell

12516 Askew Dr., Grandview, MO 64030
Local (816) 761-2333 • Toll-Free (800) 325-6639
e-mail: Region09@Potawatomi.org

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is divided into different "Regional Offices" to help cover the extended membership across the nation. Originally labeled merely by region names, regional boundaries were established in late 1997 using the US Postal Service "3 digit" Zip code areas. Region '0' is generally considered Oklahoma while the other states that are not numbered currently do not have an official "Region" designator.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Northern California

Bosho, niconi! Ni je na, gnom? How are you today?

We had a wonderful meeting on Saturday (March 6). There were about 200 attending on this beautiful, sunny day.

We had a flute presentation by Walter Ogi Johnson, Forest County Potawatomi, which was as informative as it was beautiful to hear. He shared with us his story of how he came to play and appreciate the flute music and what an important part of his life it has become. It was a perfect way to start our day and set the tone for our gathering.

Our children's activities went well because of the efforts of a dear friend of mine, Marc Martin (Wichita, Oto) and his friend, Patricia. They played games, created shields, talking feathers, capes and vests, and much more. Many thanks to Marc and Patricia.

The presentation, complete with PowerPoint technology, drew many positive comments. It covered a lot of information (our history and current business), and the visual references made it easy to follow. Rocky did a great job with his explanations of the material.

We had a special treat provided for us by Jack

Wooldridge, author of the Potawatomi Fables series. Jack made beautiful little cards with Potawatomi words and phrases on them and gave one to everyone who came. Then he called out twelve of those words and gave one of his books to each person who had a matching card. It was fun to see everyone concentrating on those words and answering up excitedly.

What a great way to include our language in the meeting. Migwetch, Jack!

In the afternoon, we were blessed with Barbara Potter's storytelling. She dropped the mesmerizing spider's web over us and pulled us into the stories. Igwien to Barbara for giving us this special gift.

Just two tribal members entered the art contest this year. What happened? I sent out five forms to various people, but only two showed. Those two had very nice work for us to see, though. First place went to Jaime Kennedy, for her beautifully beaded cobalt blue and silver earrings. Dannie Ray Hillhouse, who donated his winnings of \$100 to our language program, won second place.

Dannie is in San Quentin Prison and wanted to give

something back to his tribal community. His painting, "Spirituality Living", is the very nice piece he won with. Another of his paintings, "Eternal Star," I presented to Rocky. Dannie wanted to honor Rocky's position and commitment to our tribe. Sometimes out of a very negative environment comes some very positive things ... the human spirit seems to rise above it all.

Well, that should give you an overview of what a day we had. I'm already working on next year's meeting, which I'm hoping can be in Stockton. I welcome any suggestions you may have. I'll leave you with a few more pow wow dates and my good wishes that you are all well.

MAY

7-9 — Stanford Pow Wow
415-725-6944

15-16 — UC Santa Cruz Pow Wow
408-459-5391

22-23 — San Francisco State Univ. Pow Wow
415-338-1929

29-31 — Red Road Pow Wow at Casa De Fruta

JUNE

5 — AIM Sovereign Nations Pow Wow, Union City

26 — Custer's Last Stand Pow Wow, 925-609-8517

Bamma pi,

— Jennifer Porter

Oregon/Washington/Idaho

Ni Ji Na? (How are You?)

Flu is going around here in Oregon and didn't pass me by, but I am much better now and hoping all of you have escaped.

It seems that spring is never coming, with all this rain we're having. However, they tell me the old Ground Hog didn't get to see his shadow, which means we will have an early spring. I guess that must be so as I see the flowers popping up all over the yard and the trees are getting new leaves.

Here's a reminder to all of you: We are having our regional meeting on April 24. Your invitations will be coming out soon and you will know the place at that time.

PLEASE! RSVP to the office

here, so we can give the cook the number of people who that will attend. This is very important because your Tribe is paying per plate and we need to know in advance.

It is always a pleasure to see our council members from Shawnee, and to hear what's going on in the tribe's business. Also, they always bring some wonderful items from the Tribal Store with them. Good shopping!

Call, fax, or e-mail the office if we can be of assistance. I don't always have the answers, but I can try to find out for you. Our number is 800-522-3744 and our Fax number is the same, 800-522-3744 (press 5* & send). You can e-mail me from

the Potawatomi website, www.Potawatomi.org.

PaMaMiMa (See you later, sometime)

— Rocky Baptiste

Don't Forget!
HowNiKan
Deadline Is
The 5th Of
The Month!

REGIONAL REPORTS

North Texas

Winter has come and gone. I believe it lasted about two or three days. We have not had a streak of cold weather, but it has been chilly. Spring is definitely here, with the daffodils, tulips, bridal wreath, and the various spring blooms – along with the hay fever.

We all just hope summer does not arrive in April, as it did last year.

One of our North Texas tribal members, Billy Blair, died and will be missed by his family and friends. Billy is my cousin and he told me that he had done a lot of research into our grandmother's family. This was very helpful when my sisters and I enrolled in tribe.

We had always known that our father was Potawatomi, although we were not sure how to spell it, as there are so many variations. We also knew that our father was enrolled; we even knew his allottee number. However, we did not know how to enroll.

My sister and her daughter went to Shawnee and enrolled at about the same time that another sister and I were getting enrollment forms, so we could enroll.

The lineage chart that Mary Farrell, Director of Enrollment, provided made this a fairly simple task. I will never forget how proud I was when my Citizen Potawatomi membership card came. That small amount of tangible evidence proved what we had always known.

So, we thank you, Billy, for the part you played in helping this along. I will miss talking with you about your desire to learn the language because you heard

members of other tribes speaking in their native language and wished that you could, too.

I have been receiving e-mail messages from a gentleman who wants to learn about his family. He also knows that he is a Potawatomi. However, he said that his family did not talk much about it, as was the case in years past when people did not want to admit that they were Indian.

How wonderful it is that we are not afraid to speak up and say that we are Potawatomi!

I just read in the paper that the Crayola Company will change its red crayon labeled "Indian Red" to some other name. The term "Indian" in the crayon's name referred to the country of India, not Native Americans. Crayola company officials said that they did not want the crayon color's name to be thought of as referring to the color of Native Americans' skin. Political correctness is everything.

One of our tribal members in Hawaii sent me an e-mail message because I said that I am so excited about receiving e-mail. The subject line read, "Get excited." I was excited and appreciated hearing from her!

My latest gem from the Internet is, "Sure you can trust the government, just ask the American Indian."

Until next month, call or e-mail me if I can help in any way. If you have been sick with this awful crud, I hope your health will improve with the arrival of spring weather.

— Marj Hobdy

North Texas

Hau Chak, Ni je na ngom?

I she anwe ge nin.

Now that it is Zisbakdokegizes, the moon of the making of maple sugar, we can be comfortable in knowing it is finally spring.

Not that we had any winter in Southeast Texas. As I walked in these woods earlier in the week, I found the dogwoods to be blooming, on the very highest branches of the trees.

It has been good to talk to those of you who have called to let me know you shall be coming to the Council Meeting. We always enjoy hearing from you.

These weeks, after the holidays, and before the meeting, are about the only slow ones for me. The work on the language continues; I try to paint and

write a little.

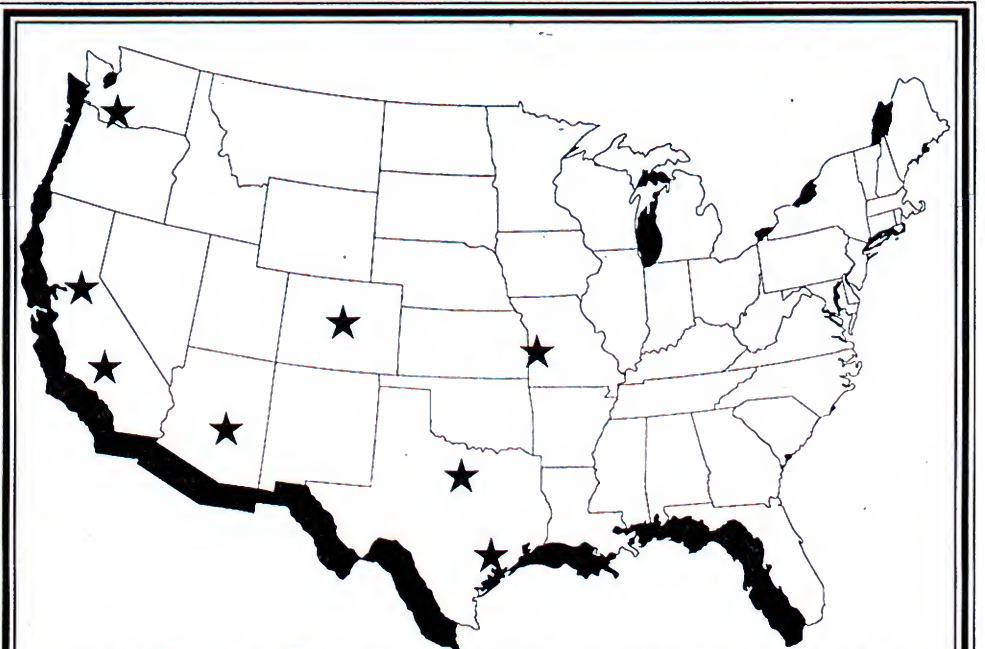
There are a couple of things I want to share with you. The first is an Internet address: http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~jar/TIL_Content.html.

The other thing is a Pow Wow in Austin at the University of St. Edwards on April 23. I am pretty sure I shall be there. Maybe some of you who don't get down from Austin for the Council Meeting can make it to this event, and we can visit there. I hope so.

Next month, after the meeting, I shall have lots of news to share with you.

Take good care of each other,
Bama mine

— Lu Ellis



1998-99 Regional Council Schedule

Denver	Oct. 1, 1998
Dallas	Nov. 7, 1998
Southern California	Jan. 16, 1999
Phoenix	Feb. 6, 1999
Northern California	March 6, 1999
Houston	March 20, 1999
Seattle/Portland	April 24, 1999
Kansas City	May 15, 1999

Attention Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Members

On Saturday, May 22, 1999, there will be a separate Art Competition (different from the Oklahoma Walk-in Regional Art Competition). This is for any tribal member who is not represented by a Regional Council Meeting. Entries must be submitted on 35-mm slides in standard mounts; no glass mounts will be accepted. Please label the slides with the artist's name, the title of the work, the date of completion of the work, the type of medium, and the work's dimensions. Entries should reach Tribal Headquarters no later than Thursday, May 20, 1999. This Art Competition will be for only those tribal members who are not represented by a Regional Council Meeting. For more information, contact:

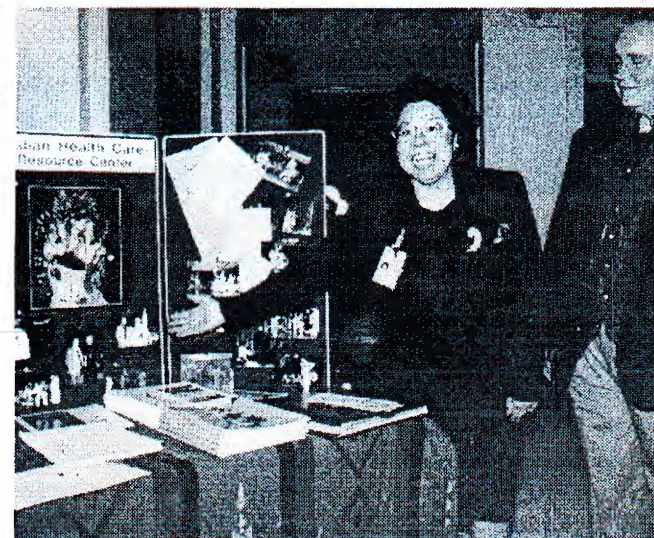
CPN Art Competition
1601 South Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801
800-880-9880 or 405-275-3121



Capps, Barrett Check Tribe's Booth At Capitol



Citizen Potawatomi Nation Booth From Above



Indian Health Center Display

Potawatomi Nation will be represented at State Capitol business exhibition

Continued from page 1
distributor of medical supplies.

Diagonally across the rotunda from the Alko booth, one could obtain information about the Indian Health Center of Tulsa. Carmelita Skeeter, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, is the center's executive direc-

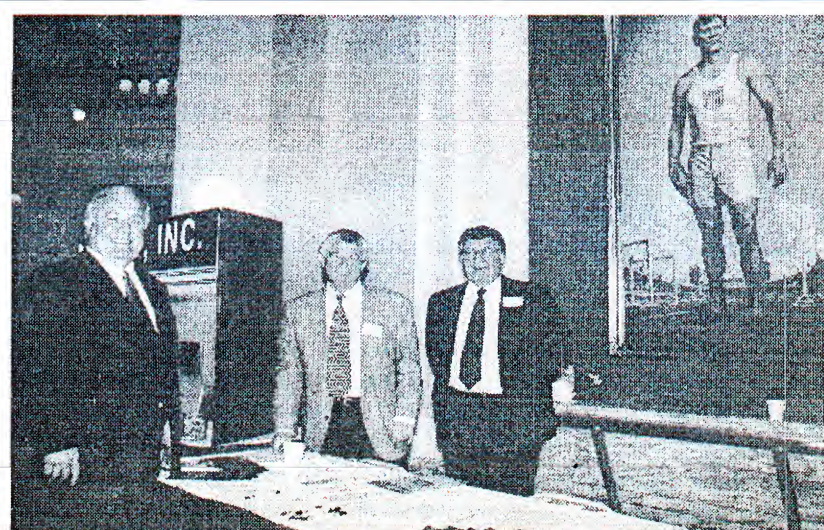
tor.

Chairman Barrett provided the keynote address for the function, discussing the importance of economic development to Native Americans and some of the ingredients that have gone into the Potawatomi Nation's move into a diverse mix of owned-and-operated

businesses.

A tour of the booths showed that Native Americans own and operate a very divergent group of business enterprises in Oklahoma. Businesses from pizza franchises to computer service to sophisticated manufacturing were represented.

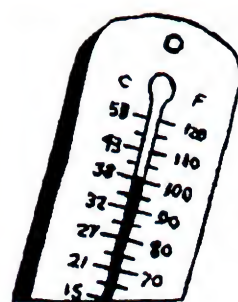
Chairman Barrett, Secretary-Treasurer Gene Bruno and His Partner Tom Anderson At The ALKO Booth Under The Jim Thorpe Mural



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New York Times story tells story of Potawatomi victim

Continued from page 1

duty to Native Americans, the mismanagement, and the class-action suit.

Traveling to Oklahoma, Egan reported on Mary Fish's situation. Ms. Fish is a Muscogee (Creek) who receives just a few dollars a year of income from six wells that produce Oklahoma sweet crude on her family's 40 acres. Fish said that, at a time when oil was selling for \$10 a barrel, she was told by a BIA official that she was getting just \$3 a barrel. She says that she received no explanation for the price difference.

Ms. Fish reported getting very small checks in payment for oil income — \$3 to \$5 a month. However, after two lawyers who took her case showed up on Fish's land and drillers questioned them, Fish received a \$3,000 check, with no explanation.

The *New York Times* article also tells the story of Mose Bruno, a Citizen Potawatomi. "The land that was held in trust for the descendants of Mose and Frances Bruno, for example, was sold in the 1960's to satisfy a \$97 grocery bill," the story reports.

"No one is certain why this was permitted, and the family points to it as an example of a flagrant abuse. Oil has been pumped from this land for much of this century, and oil is still being drawn from the Bruno ground today," reporter Egan writes.

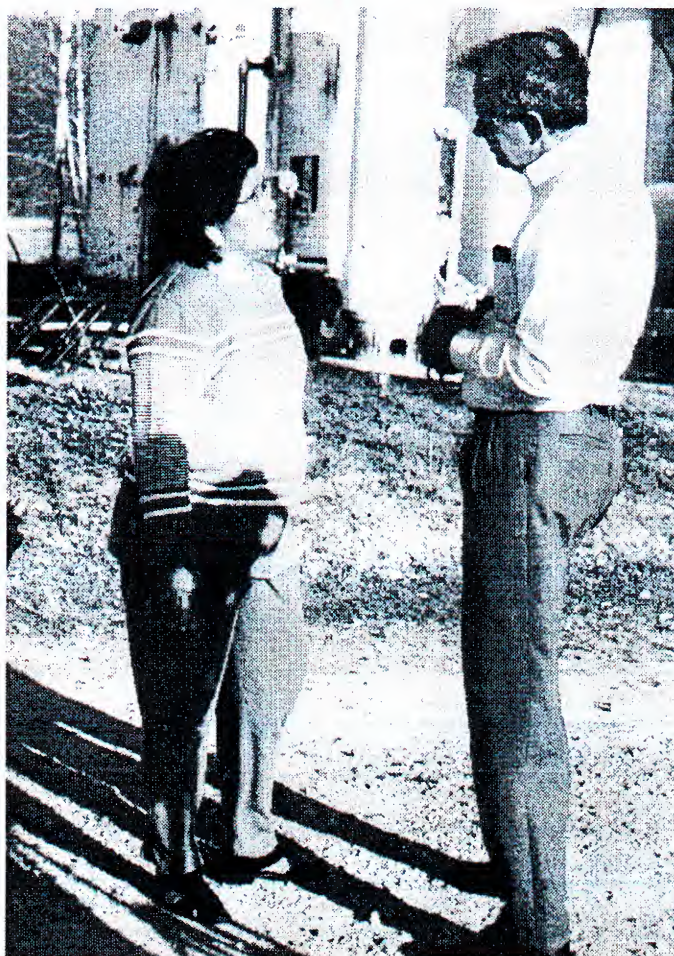
The article reports that Bruno family descendants have been trying, for more than 30 years, to learn why the government's trust manager sold this trust property. Johnny Flynn, a Bruno family

descendant and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, told the *Times*, "You're looking at the grandchildren of the original Indian allottees, and we're dealing with the grandchildren of the Oklahoma Sooners. Guess which side usually ends up with the land?"

There are advocates doing battle for the Indian land and mineral rights owners. The Native American Rights Fund has provided legal work on the class action suit. Eloise Cobell, a Blackfoot from Montana and the lead plaintiff in the suit, has made obtaining justice for these Native Americans her life's work.

In Oklahoma, concerned Native Americans have created OILMAN, a non-profit organization set up to battle for the rights of mineral rights owners who are members of the Seminole, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, and Muscogee (Creek) nations. Since its founding, OILMAN has enlarged its scope to assist members of other tribes.

OILMAN is the product of Rosalie Grothaus' loss of her family's allotted land and home as the result of Interior Department



Marcella Giles Tells Her Story To Reporter

mismanagement of mineral rights income. Grothaus, member of the Seminole Nation, lives in Seminole, Oklahoma and works for the Sac and Fox Nation in Shawnee.

OILMAN has enlisted the services of Marcella Giles (Muscogee), an attorney and native Oklahoman who now lives in McLean, Virginia and practices in the Washington, D.C. area. Giles told the *New York Times* that, over the past 50 years, as much as 90 percent of oil-rich trust land in eastern Oklahoma has fallen out of Indian hands.

"In Oklahoma, it's the fox guarding the henhouse," Giles told the *Times*. "There is a simple reason why — oil."

Giles was buoyed by Judge Lamberth's

decision. "This is a most exciting moment for Indian Country," she told the *HowNiKan*. "Finally, after 200 years, a federal judge has validated all of the individual Indian account holders' complaints that they do not know what has happened to their money."

According to Giles, "The individual Indians have suffered incredible injustice, especially in Oklahoma, because of the lack of accounting for oil and gas production from oil wells. The BIA cannot find its own records! A major objective of OILMAN has been recognized through Judge Lamberth's opinion, which is that individual Indians in Oklahoma have a merciless chore to dig out their records, including probate records, and try to achieve some justice."

OILMAN is setting up meetings of mineral rights owners, advising them on a number of issues, and taking their story to the media and to Congress. Anyone wanting OILMAN's assistance or more information can write to 316 East Broadway, Seminole, OK 74868. The organization can be reached by telephone at 405-382-7026 or 800-882-7026.

The organization is trying to persuade Senate Indian Affairs Committee Chairman Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Rep.-Colorado) to bring his committee to Oklahoma for investigatory hearings on the mismanagement of Native Americans' income.

According to OILMAN officials, the *New York Times* article will not be the last of the national publicity about Indian mineral rights owners' battle for economic justice. On Monday, March 22, 1999, NBC-TV reporter Roger O'Neil and a camera-and-sound crew visited Ms. Fish's allotted land, near Weleetka, and interviewed her. The story aired on NBC's *Nightly News* in early April.

In addition, over at CBS-TV, the grandfather of newsmagazines, *Sixty Minutes*, has plans to visit Oklahoma in early April to prepare a story about IIM accounts mismanagement.



The First Spring Midwest Bluegrass Festival

April 23 & 24, 1999 — Harrah,
Oklahoma Recreation & Industrial Park

The Midwest Bluegrass Festival Features:

- » Country Grass — Oklahoma City, F/S
 - » Spring Street Bluegrass — Tulsa, Sat. only
 - » Set-N-Pretty — F/S
 - » The Blue Mountain Boys — Red Oak, OK, F/S
 - » Happy Tracks Square Dance Club — Choctaw, OK, F/S
- Admission \$5/Day — Camper Hookups \$8/Day —
Primitive Camping \$2/Day

Great family entertainment in the beautiful blackjack hills!!
Take Exit 172 from Interstate 40. Drive North on Harrah-Newalla Road to Reno Street. Drive 3/4-mile East on Reno to the site.

The Midwest Bluegrass Festival is sponsored by Midwest Jubilee, Inc. Promotion is by Scotty Howard, a proud member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Anderson invited to visit Dartmouth

Brooke Honor Anderson, Citizen Potawatomi, participated in the Dartmouth College Native American Fly-In Program last fall. Each fall the Dartmouth College Admissions Office selects a group of Native American seniors from around the country to visit the Dartmouth campus and experience Dartmouth firsthand.

Students are selected on the basis of academic achievement, personal dynamism and potential for future excellence. Ms. Anderson, a National Merit Scholar Commendation recipient, was selected for this trip along with 40 other American Indian students representing 27 tribes and 18 states. The Dartmouth Admissions Office provided airline transportation to the College for participants of the Program.

On campus participants met with current undergraduate students, spent nights in the dorms, had the opportunity to visit classes, had an admissions interview, toured the campus, and met with College faculty and administrators. All meals were provided while the students were on campus. Dartmouth's historical commitment to Indian education dates back to the very beginning of the College itself.

In 1769, the Reverend Eleazar Wheelock founded Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, "for the education of Youth of the Indian tribes ... English Youth, and many others." Attracting and enrolling Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian, and American Indian students from around the country is a Dartmouth tradition.

Additional information about Native American programs at Dartmouth College can be obtained by contacting Shelley M.H. Arakawa, Assistant Director of Admissions, Native American Recruitment Coordinator at 1-800-860-1294.